Wasatch Co. Building Survey

Name of Building: Epperson Livery Stable

Information Required	Date Found		
Location:			
Address: Town:			
Architect:			
Builders:			
Building Material:			
Style of Building:			
Date Built:			
Original Owners:			
FGS			
Pedigree			
Histories			
Pictures			
Subsequent Owners:			
Notes:			
References: 1.			
2.			

LIVERY STABLE

Only one livery stable flourished in Midway in the days before automobiles. The stable was established about 1909 by Simon Epperson. In earlier years, Mr. Epperson's father, Sidney H. Epperson, had kept a feed stable where travelers could stop for feed for their teams.

The Epperson stable was located north of the old Berkumshaw Building on a spot where William Gibson later operated a blacksmith shop. Mr. Epperson invested much in his livery stable and boasted fine quality horses and the best in harnesses, buggies and cutters.

Many of Midway's young couples courted in Epperson buggies and enjoyed Sunday rides in outfits from the stables. Workers at the mines also made good use of the services. When mining activity dwindled so did the livery stable business, and its end came when automobiles gained in popularity. 587

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In high style for her day is Mrs. Simon Epperson shown here with the popular horse "Skipper" known throughout Wasatch County. She is seated in a buggy from her husband's livery stable. The photograph was taken in 1911.

1-9-90

SIMON SHELBY AND LYDIA SMITH EPPERSON

Simon Shelby Epperson was born in Midway, January 12, 1871, the seventh son of Sidney Hiram and Mary Jane Robey Epperson. He married Lydia Melissa Smith April 4, 1890, at the Smith Grove in Midway. The marriage was later solemnized in the Salt Lake Temple. He died December 29, 1950, in Salt Lake City and is buried in Midway.

Lydia Melissa Smith Epperson was born in Midway August 2, 1873, the eighth child of Benjamin Mark and Elizabeth Agness

Wood Smith. She died May 4, 1956 in Salt Lake City and is buried in Midway.

Simon graduated from the old Brigham Young Academy in Provo in 1892 and taught school in Midway seven years. He also served as secretary of the Midway Town Corporation and secretary of the Midway Waterworks and Irrigation Company. He was part owner of the Midway Drug Company and owned and operated the Midway Livery Stable. He was an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and served as ward clerk and chorister of the Midway First Ward under Bishop Coleman for seven years. He worked also in the Sunday School and YMMIA.

From 1906 to 1919 Mr. Epperson served as branch manager of the Studebaker Corporation in Heber. He was Sunday School chorister of the Second Ward, a member of the Sunday School Union Board and second counselor to David A. Broadbent when religion classes were first organized in the stakes. Moved to Silver City in 1919 where he was associated with the Iron Blossom Mining Company and Knight's Investment Company. He was first counselor to Bishop Jesse Haws and ward chorister. In 1924 he moved his family to Pioche, Nevada, where he was bookkeeper and assayer for the Bristol Silver Mining Company. Moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1926 and became associated with the Park Utah Consolidated Mining Company and later, the original Utah Woolen Mills. He was an active member of the High Priest Quorum in Marlborough Ward.

Though he traveled far from the place of his birth, his spirit always remained in the Wasatch Valley.

Lydia was an active member of the Church all her life. She came from a musical family and sang in the choir of every ward she lived in. She was a counselor in the YWMIA in the Midway and Heber Wards where she also worked in the Relief Society for twenty years. When the family moved to Silver City in May 1919 she was again active in church and civic affairs. She was called as counselor in the YWMIA and also taught Sunday School and religion classes. In Salt Lake Lydia was called to YWMIA and Relief Society work in the Fourteenth Ward and later in the Hawthorne and Marlborough Wards. She was a visiting teacher until ill health forced her to give up all of her activities and confined her to her home.

Children of Simon and Lydia Epperson included:

Jennie Agness, married Alvah A. Ross;
Vida Lydia, died in youth;
Simon Doyle, married Margaret Ellen Murdock;
Edith Rosedale, died in youth;
Juanita, died in infancy;
Erma Lavella, married Joel D. Hickman;
Frank Ross, married Cora H. Farmer;
Lillian Estelle;
Victor Robey, married Nellie Hachmeister.

Their bodies sleeping in their graves
'Til the resurrection morn
Aunt Nannie, too, was called away
When nearly eighty-seven
And everyone of us feels sure
That she is now in Heaven
Because she kept the laws of God
As nearly as she could
And trusted everyone she met
As all true Christians should.
Those of her friends who yet remain
Still hold the memory dear
And gladly meet to celebrate
Her Birthday every year.

At the peak of mining there were several Chinese cooks who hired in the area. "One Fan" was a beloved character who cooked at camps in the hills west of Midway. On one occasion young Nate Coleman came running to his father with an especially large piece of pie and exclaimed "Oh, Daddy, see what 'Parasol One' gave me."

Barber shops were operated at various times in Midway by Harry Bircumshaw, William Wheable, Thomas Hair, Mulholland Hair, Walter Van Wagoner and Bert Bonner.

John Mohlman and Mr. Kuhni repaired and made shoes.

Pool halls were operated by Erwin Alder, Walter Van Wagoner, Dow Epperman, Jack Derry and Keith Bronson.

When the railroads came to the area and transportation facilities improved many of the boarding houses closed.

The O'Neil hotel still stands on Midway's Main Street, used today as a private residence.

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SALOONS AND TAVERNS

Saloons and taverns for the convenience of miners in the Midway area were operated during the mining era, but quickly faded from the picture with the beginning of prohibition. The establishments were mostly of the "movie variety"—hard liquor sold over a bar and disputes settled with six guns. Pool tables and cards were featured, although dance hall girls were prohibited. In recent years there have been a few billiard and pool halls operated.

POWER PLANTS

Two major power plants have been operated in the Midway area in addition to the Heber Light and Power Company in which Midway owns one-eighth interest. The first plant was developed in Snake Creek Canyon near the turn of the Century by President Joseph R. Murdock.

Realizing the potential of electric power, Pres. Murdock, along with several others took an option on property owned by Bishop Jacob Probst at the mouth of Snake Creek Canyon. During 1907 and 1908 they surveyed several possible plant sites, and finally chose one that they felt would best utilize water flow out of the canyon. Work was begun under the direction of Bishop Probst, with John H. (Jack) Buehler, John A. Sulser, Samuel (Sam) Ritchie and Gottlieb Buehler employed for the project.

Even though this venture failed, the idea persisted, and Jesse Knight

Wasatch Co. Building Survey

Name of Building: Berkumshaw Bldg.

Information Required	Date Found
Location:	
Address: Town: Midway	
Architect:	
Builders:	
Building Material:	
Style of Building:	
Date Built:	
Original Owners:	
FGS	
Pedigree	
Histories	
Pictures	
Subsequent Owners:	
Notes:	
References: 1.	
2.	